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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 VO-05 L-03 PA-01
SS-15 NSC-05 /054 W
----------075044 111425Z /20
P 111414Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8877
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 04268

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CSCE, SREF, UR
SUBJECT; WOMAN'S DAY DEMONSTRATION: IRINI IRINA MCCLELLAN

REF: (A) STATE 61203, (B) MOSCOW 3751

1. DESPITE HEAVY KGB PRESSURE, A SMALL DEMONSTRATION (SEE REFTELS) DID TAKE PLACE ON THE STEPS OF LENIN LIBRARY AT NOON ON MARCH 8. OF THE THIRTY EXPECTED DEMONSTRATORS, APPROXIMATELY 20 - 25 WERE KEPT UNDER HOUSE ARREST OR TAKEN INTO CUSTODY NEAR THEIR HOMES. IRINA MCCLELLAN WAS MET AT HER FRONT DOOR AN HOUR BEFORE THE DEMONSTRATION AND HELD FOR SEVERAL HOURS IN LOCAL POLICE STATION, THEN RELEASED.

2. THE FEW PEOPLE WHO TOOK PART IN THE DEMONSTRATION WERE ARRESTED BY A LARGE POSSE OF KGB OFFICERS ON HAND AT LENIN LIBRARY. SOME DISPLAYED SIGNS, AND, ACCORDING TO A REFUSENIK SOURCE WHO WAS AT THE SCENE, ONE WAS ABLE TO TIE HERSELF TO A PILLAR IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY. SAME SOURCE SAYS ALL OF WOMEN HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED.

3. COMMENT: DISSIDENT CIRCLES IN MOSCOW WERE FULL OF TALK
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OF THE DEMONSTRATION. THOSE WOMEN WHO DID MANAGE TO TAKE PART IN THE PROTEST ALL SLEPT AT FRIENDS HOMES - THUS AVOIDING KGB. WOMEN WHO WERE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PART IN DEMONSTRATION WENT TO GREATER EFFORT THAN USUAL TO KEEP PLANS SECRET. NEVERTHELESS, PRESS WAS AWARE OF IT AT LEAST ONE DAY IN ADVANCE AND IT WAS BEING DISCUSSED IN U.S. EMBASSY DAY BEFORE DEMONSTRATION AS IF IT WERE COMMON

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KNOWLEDGE. KGB ACTIONS DEMONSTRATED ITS THOROUGH FAMILIARITY NOT ONLY WITH PLANS, BUT ALSO WITH SCHEDULED PARTICIPANTS AND SHOWD ONCE AGAIN DIFFICULTY REFUSENIK COMMUNITY HAS IN KEEPING ITS PLANS SECRET.

4. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WITH MRS. MCCLELLAN RELEASED AND, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO CHARGES PENDING AGAINST HER, WE SEE LITTLE GROUNDS FOR RAISING MATTER WITH MFA AND THEREFORE DO NOT INTEND TO DO SO. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, STATUS OF WOMEN, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Office: ACTION EUR
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